

Middle School Life

Retreats Beginning in the fall of 2011 all middle school grades will have a retreat opportunity including team building activities, opportunity for reflection and prayer.

Fun Nights – On these days your children will beg you to bring them to school! Each grade level is invited to enjoy an evening with their classmates and teachers at school without the school work! Students arrive in the evening, mingle, eat pizza, and play a variety of board and/or athletic games making new friends and strengthening old relationships which can be challenging to do within the school day. These events tend to be great bonding experiences and build memories while forming an entire culture of fellowship among the students.

Fall Middle School Family Cook out – middle school years are unique in the K-8 school model because of the advancing needs of a social life. This venue recognizes the need for family and social relationships in an environment that allows students to interact with peers in a safe, fun, and appropriate way. The evening is composed of grilling, eating, playing games, and socializing for middle school students and parents. Suggestions for activities are always welcome.

Elective Classes – students choose elective classes which are built into the school day. Choosing according to their interests enables them to strengthen skills while building relationships with peers who share the same leisurely or academic pursuits. Samples of elective classes are newspaper, yearbook, robotics, photography, service, guitar, drama and theater, strategic board games, and home economics.

8th grade field trips

Created for Greatness Program: We believe that all people are created to be saints and citizens of the kingdom of God. Just as our Creator entrusted the entire world to the stewardship of man and woman, so also He endowed each person with gifts, which are to be cultivated for personal holiness and for service to others. The full cultivation of these gifts: intellectual, social, spiritual, and physical leads a person to human greatness. When these gifts are infused with divine grace, they lead a person to sainthood. Through the *Created for Greatness* Program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, we provide opportunities for students to develop these gifts as individuals and within a community of peers, under the guidance of a mentor teacher. An array of academic and social activities, leadership opportunities, discussions, and reflections give students knowledge about greatness which empowers them to grow into the saints God made them to be.

Careers Night: Because of the location of the school, many OLMC parents have careers which require a strong background in the disciplines of math and science (Langley, NASA, Shipyard...). We take advantage of this charism which is so unique among elementary schools in America today, by inviting parents to showcase the use of science and math in their careers in an evening of demonstration and lecture. Participants often have careers in engineering, medicine, food science, architecture, computer security, music, and graphic design. It becomes apparent that math and science are used universally in daily life. (See information under math and science club under student life for more information. These are hallmark clubs with a high level of participation at OLMC).

8th grade privileges and events: serve and facilitate the Italian Dinner and Talent Show to kick off Catholic Schools Week, dress down on your birthday, multiple curricular-related field trips such as serving at the Poor Clare Monastery, visiting the holocaust museum in Richmond, visiting civics-related, opportunities for advanced classes to earn high school credit in math and foreign language.

Clubs, Activities, Sports – listed in Student Life (please see Clubs or Athletics).